

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): A tire ~~using~~ comprising a rubber-steel cord composite of a steel cord and a rubber composition, wherein the rubber composition comprises at least one rubber ingredient selected from natural rubber and synthetic diene rubbers, and ~~[[a]]~~ N,N'-(4,4'-diphenylmethane) bismaleimide compound, ~~in an amount of the bismaleimide compound being compounded of 0.1-5 parts by weight of the N,N'-(4,4'-diphenylmethane) bismaleimide based on 100 parts by weight of the rubber ingredient.~~

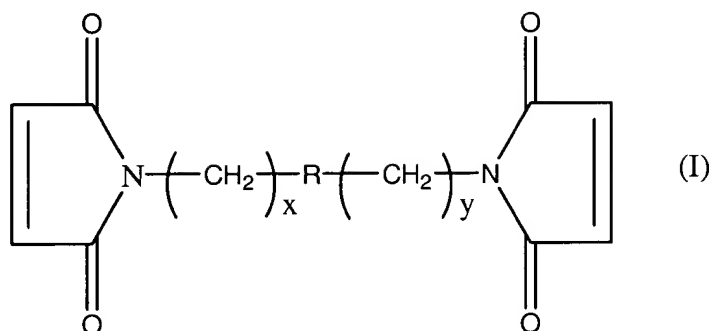
Claim 2 (currently amended): A tire ~~according to claim 1~~ comprising a rubber-steel cord composite of a steel cord and a rubber composition, wherein the rubber composition comprises at least one rubber ingredient selected from natural rubber and synthetic diene rubbers, a bismaleimide compound in an amount of 0.1-5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the rubber ingredient, and is further compounded with a trans-polybutadiene in an amount of 0.1-15 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the rubber ingredient.

Claim 3 (original): A tire according to claim 1, wherein the rubber ingredient contains not less than 50% by weight of natural rubber.

Claim 4 (original): A tire according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 2, wherein the bismaleimide compound is represented by the following general formula (I):

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/985,848



wherein R is an aromatic group having a carbon number of 6-18 or an alkylaromatic group having a carbon number of 7-24, and x and y are an integer of 0 to 3, respectively.

Claim 5 (currently amended): A tire according to claim 1 comprising a rubber-steel cord composite of a steel cord and a rubber composition, wherein the rubber composition comprises at least one rubber ingredient selected from natural rubber and synthetic diene rubbers, and a bismaleimide compound in an amount of 0.1-5 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the rubber ingredient, and wherein the steel cord is a brass-plated monofilament steel cord comprising one steel filament containing at least one of cobalt atom and nickel atom in a surface layer region ranging from a surface of a steel filament plated with a brass up to a depth of 15 mm inward in a radial direction of the filament and having a surface copper concentration of 15-45 atomic%, or a multifilament steel cord obtained by twisting a plurality of the above steel filaments.

Claim 6 (original): A tire according to claim 5, wherein a total amount of cobalt atom and nickel atom contained in the surface layer region is not less than 0.1 atomic% but not more than a content of copper atom.

Claim 7 (original): A tire according to claim 6, wherein the total amount of cobalt atom and nickel atom contained in the surface layer region is 0.5-5.0 atomic%.

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/985,848

Claim 8 (original): A tire according to claim 5, wherein cobalt atom and nickel atom not contained as an oxide in the surface layer region is not less than 50 atomic% of the total amount of cobalt atom and nickel atom contained in the surface layer region.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A tire according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 5, wherein an average thickness of the plated brass is 0.13-0.30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 10 (currently amended): A tire according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 5, wherein a diameter of the steel filament is not more than 0.40 mm.

Claim 11 (new): A tire according to claim 2, wherein the rubber ingredient contains not less than 50% by weight of natural rubber.

Claim 12 (new): A tire according to claim 4, wherein the bismaleimide compound is N,N'-(4,4'-diphenylmethane) bismaleimide.

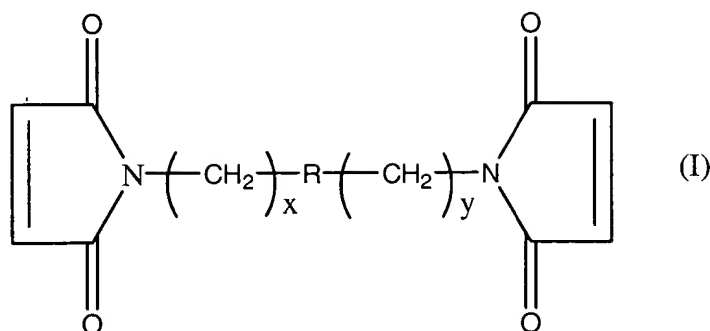
Claim 13 (new): A tire according to claim 5, wherein the rubber composition further comprises a trans-polybutadiene in an amount of 0.1-15 parts by weight based on 100 parts by weight of the rubber ingredient.

Claim 14 (new): A tire according to claim 5, wherein the rubber ingredient contains not less than 50% by weight of natural rubber.

Claim 15 (new): A tire according to claim 5, wherein the bismaleimide compound is represented by the following general formula (I):

# AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/985,848



wherein R is an aromatic group having a carbon number of 6-18 or an alkylaromatic group having a carbon number of 7-24, and x and y are an integer of 0 to 3, respectively.

Claim 16 (new): A tire according to claim 15, wherein the bismaleimide compound is N,N'-(4,4'-diphenylmethane) bismaleimide.

Claim 17 (new): A tire according to claim 1, wherein the steel cord is a brass-plated monofilament steel cord comprising one brass-plated steel filament or a brass-plated multifilament steel cord obtained by twisting a plurality of brass-plated steel filaments, wherein an average thickness of the plated brass is 0.13-0.30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

Claim 18 (new): A tire according to claim 1, wherein the steel cord is a brass-plated monofilament steel cord comprising one brass-plated steel filament or a brass-plated multifilament steel cord obtained by twisting a plurality of brass-plated steel filaments, wherein a diameter of the steel filament is not more than 0.40 mm.

Claim 19 (new): A tire according to claim 2, wherein the steel cord is a brass-plated monofilament steel cord comprising one brass-plated steel filament or a brass-plated multifilament steel cord obtained by twisting a plurality of brass-plated steel filaments, wherein an average thickness of the plated brass is 0.13-0.30  $\mu\text{m}$ .

AMENDMENT

U.S. Appln. No. 09/985,848

Claim 20 (new): A tire according to claim 2, wherein the steel cord is a brass-plated monofilament steel cord comprising one brass-plated steel filament or a brass-plated multifilament steel cord obtained by twisting a plurality of brass-plated steel filaments, wherein a diameter of the steel filament is not more than 0.40 mm.